

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-121.1

Current through Session Laws 2023-105 of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly, but does not reflect possible future codification directives from the Revisor of Statutes pursuant to G.S. 164-10.

General Statutes of North Carolina > Chapter 20. Motor Vehicles. (Arts. 1 — 18) > Article 3. Motor Vehicle Act of 1937. (Pts. 1 — 12) > Part 9. The Size, Weight, Construction and Equipment of Vehicles. (§§ 20-115 — 20-137.5)

§ 20-121.1. Operation of a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle on certain roadways.

The operation of a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle is authorized with the following restrictions:

- (1) A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. A mini-truck or modified utility vehicle may be operated only on streets and highways where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour or less; provided, a modified utility vehicle may not be operated on any street or highway having four or more travel lanes unless the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This subdivision does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street being crossed has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.
- (2) A low-speed vehicle or mini-truck shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, windshield wipers, speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order.
- (2a) A modified utility vehicle shall be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, a speedometer, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. Any such required equipment shall be maintained in proper working order. If a modified utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the modified utility vehicle prior to registration. The operator of and all passengers on a modified utility vehicle that is not equipped with a windshield and windshield wipers shall wear a safety helmet, with a retention strap properly secured, that complies with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218.
- (3) A low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle shall be registered and insured in accordance with G.S. 20-50 and G.S. 20-309.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other subdivision of this section, the Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles, mini-trucks, or modified utility vehicles on any road or highway if it determines that the prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.
- (5) Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. § 571.500.
- (6) Regardless of age, a mini-truck shall not qualify as an antique vehicle or historic vehicle as described in G.S. 20-79.4(b).

History

2001-356, s. 5; 2019-34, s. 3; 2020-40, s. 3; 2021-33, s. 2.

Annotations

Notes

Effect of Amendments.

Session Laws 2019-34, s. 3, effective June 21, 2019, inserted “or mini-truck” following “vehicle” throughout the section; inserted the second sentence in subdivision (1); added the second sentence in subdivision (2); and added subdivision (6).

Session Laws 2020-40, s. 3, effective October 1, 2020, substituted “vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility truck vehicle” for “vehicle or mini-truck” throughout the section; and added the third sentence in subdivision (2).

Session Laws 2021-33, s. 2, effective October 1, 2021, in subdivision (1), added the proviso at the end of the second sentence, and inserted “subdivision” in the third sentence; in subdivision (2), substituted “low-speed vehicle or mini-truck” for “low-speed vehicle, mini-truck, or modified utility vehicle” near the beginning of the first sentence, and deleted the last sentence, which read: “If a modified utility vehicle does not have a vehicle identification number, upon application by the owner, the Division shall assign a vehicle identification number to the modified utility vehicle prior to registration”; added subdivision (2a); and substituted “Notwithstanding the provisions of any other subdivision of this section, the” for “The” in subdivision (4).

General Statutes of North Carolina
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